

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00119 121430Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 TRSE-00 /087 W
-----121517Z 018202 /44

R 121245Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9283
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF BC RH

SUBJECT: PRESS RELEASE ON RHODESIAN REFUGEE INFLUX

REF: GABORONE 86

1. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS ISSUED PRESS RELEASE REGARDING JAN 6 ENTRY INTO BOTSWANA OF 314 RHODESIAN REFUGEES. TEXT AS FOLLOWS: ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 314 REFUGEES FROM RHODESIA REPORTED TO THE BOTSWANA POLICE AT VARIOUS CENTRES IN BOTSWANA. THE NUMBERS WHO REPORTED WERE AS FOLLOWS: BOBONG 141, D SEMOLALE 102, TSHESEBE 61, MAITENGWE 5 AND FRANCISTOWN 5.

2. QTE: THE ARRIVAL OF THESE BROUGHT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RHODESIAN REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA TO 859. THE REFUGEE RECEPTION CENTRE IN FRANISTOWN IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 300 PEOPLE AND THE ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE IS THEREFORE GROSSLY INADEQUATE.

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EM QTE: THE REFUGEES WHEN INTERVIEWED BY THE POLICE HAVE SAID THAT DURING MARCH LAST YEAR A DISRICTOFFICER AND SENIOR CHIEF TOURED THEIR AREAS AND INFORMED THEM THAT THE ABLE BODIESD MEN WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO DO MILITARY SERVICE AT A LATER DATE. LAST WEEK OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE SMITH REGIME TOURED THESE AREAS AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD RETURN NEXT WEEKT TO COLLECT THEM FOR TRAINING AND SERVICE IN SMITH S SECURITY FORCES.

AS THEY WERE NOT PRPE PREPARED TO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR OWN
PEIPLEN THEY SOUGHT REFUGEE IN BOTSWANA.

4.

4. QUOTE THERE HAD BEEN ALLEGATIONS BY THE SMITH REGIME THAT
105 RHODESIANS WERE ABDUCTED BY ARMED FREEDOM FIGHTERS FROM
A BEERHALL WHICH IS SITUATED IN THE BORDER AREA NORTH OF
SEMOLALE. ALL THE REFUGEES HAVE BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE POLICE
BUT NO EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FOUND TO SUPPORT THE ABDUCTION
STORY. UNQTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEES, KIDNAPPING, PRESS RELEASES, POLICE FORCES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am

Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

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Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: PRESS RELEASE ON RHODESIAN REFUGEE INFLUX

TAGS: SREF, BC, RH

To: STATE

Type: TE

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Review Markings:

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